



North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

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HOG INVENTORY

North Dakota The December 1 all hogs and pigs inventory, at 157,000 head, decreased 12,000 head from December 1, 2004. This is the fourth lowest inventory level in the last one-hundred years. Only 2001, 2002 and 2003 levels were lower, at 154,000 head, 144,000 head, and 150,000 head, respectively. The December 1 inventory level had increased in each of the last two years.

The breeding herd totaled 31,000 head, up 2,000 head from December 1, 2004. The 2005 annual pig crop totaled 471,000, up 30,000 from last year. This is the largest pig crop since 2001's crop of 476,000. Average pigs saved per litter, at 9.42, set a new record high since recording began in 1924.

Market hogs totaled 126,000 head, down 14,000 from last year. Market hog inventory by weight group with respective changes from last year are as follows: 50,000 head weighing under 60 pounds, down 2 percent from last year; 30,000 head in the 60-119 pound range, down 12 percent; 23,000 head in the 120-179 pound range, down 18 percent; 23,000 head over 180 pounds, down 15 percent.

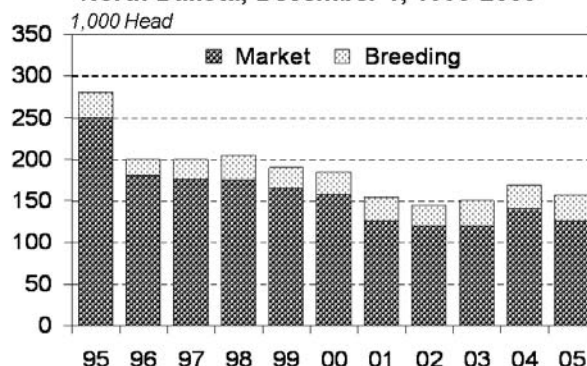
United States Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

Hogs and Pigs: Inventory
North Dakota, December 1, 1995-2005



Hogs and Pigs: Inventory, Sows Farrowing, Pig Crop and Pigs Per Litter
North Dakota and United States, December 1, 2004-2005

Item	North Dakota		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	1,000 Head
All Hogs and Pigs	169	157	60,975	61,197
Breeding	29	31	5,969	6,011
Market	140	126	55,005	55,186
Under 60 Pounds	51	50	19,980	19,955
60-119 Pounds	34	30	13,439	13,552
120-179 Pounds	28	23	11,186	11,266
180 Pounds and Over	27	23	10,401	10,414
Sows Farrowing				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	48	50	11,498	11,504
Pig Crop				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	441	471	102,780	103,685
Pigs Per Litter				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	Head 9.19	Head 9.42	Head 8.94	Head 9.01

^{1/} December preceding year.

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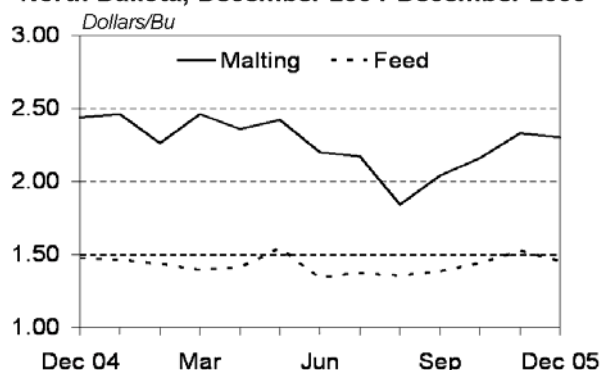
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AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota

The Index of Prices Received for All Farm Products in December is 120 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is down 1 percent from last year and unchanged from two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 112 percent of the base, is down 4 percent from December 2004 while the All Livestock Index, at 147 percent, is up 10 percent from last year. December indexes are calculated using preliminary mid-month prices.

Barley Prices Received by Farmers
North Dakota, December 2004-December 2005



Index Numbers of Farm Prices North Dakota and United States, December 2005

Indexes and Ratios	North Dakota			United States		
	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005
Prices Received						
All Farm Products	121	122	120	111	113	114
Crops	117	114	112	104	105	109
Food Grains	116	124	124	113	115	116
Feed Grains & Hay	104	95	96	93	83	89
Oil Bearing Crops ^{1/}	120	118	109	100	98	101
Potatoes & Dry Beans ^{2/}	124	111	110	101	106	111
Livestock	134	146	147	120	121	119
Meat Animals	136	150	152	118	120	121
Dairy Products	137	131	137	126	116	113
Other Livestock Products ^{3/}	113	113	113	118	127	123
Prices Paid	NA	NA	NA	134	143	143
Ratio ^{4/}	NA	NA	NA	83	79	80

^{1/} Includes non-oil sunflower. ^{2/} North Dakota includes sugarbeets. ^{3/} United States excludes wool. ^{4/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid. NA=Not applicable.

United States

The December All Farm Products Index is 114 percent of its 1990-92 base, up 1 percent from the November index and 3 percent above the December 2004 index. The All Crops Index is 109, up 4 percent from November and 5 percent above December 2004. The Livestock and Product Index, at 119, is 2 percent below last month and down 1 percent from December 2004.

Prices Received by Farmers North Dakota and United States, December 2005

Item	Unit	North Dakota			United States			Effective U.S. Parity Price Dec 2005
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2005	Dec 2005	
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Wheat, All	Bu	3.36	3.53	3.61	3.40	3.47	3.47	10.60
Durum	Bu	3.62	3.18	3.25	3.67	3.25	3.33	NA
Other Spring	Bu	3.33	3.64	3.70	3.48	3.73	3.71	NA
Winter	Bu	2.62	2.82	1/	3.34	3.29	3.30	NA
Corn	Bu	1.85	1.70	1.75	2.04	1.77	1.88	7.08
Oats	Bu	1.26	1.52	1/	1.60	1.63	1.73	4.20
Barley, All	Bu	2.23	2.05	2.00	2.49	2.64	2.54	7.17
Feed	Bu	1.47	1.52	1.45	1.66	1.77	1.70	NA
Malting	Bu	2.44	2.33	2.30	2.74	2.93	2.86	NA
Sunflower, All	Cwt	13.70	12.80	11.90	13.40	12.30	11.30	NA
Oil	Cwt	12.90	11.30	10.70	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-oil	Cwt	17.20	17.50	16.90	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baled Hay, All ^{2/}	Ton	56.00	50.00	49.00	86.00	91.70	92.00	NA
Alfalfa ^{2/}	Ton	61.00	54.00	54.00	92.10	97.50	97.70	NA
Other ^{2/}	Ton	45.00	39.00	37.00	72.40	76.30	78.00	NA
Canola	Cwt	9.90	9.39	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed	Bu	8.42	5.94	5.80	8.42	5.93	5.80	14.30
Soybeans	Bu	5.50	5.35	5.40	5.45	5.62	5.71	17.10
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	26.60	15.00	14.60	27.00	18.30	18.60	53.60
Navy	Cwt	24.00	17.40	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pinto	Cwt	27.70	14.60	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Potatoes, All	Cwt	5.95	6.65	6.70	5.36	6.31	6.60	15.90
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	6.40	9.60	NA	5.56	8.52	NA	NA
Processing	Cwt	5.70	5.30	NA	5.23	4.87	NA	NA
Beef Cattle	Cwt	98.60	108.00	111.00	86.80	91.30	92.70	184.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	108.00	123.00	121.00	91.90	97.30	99.10	NA
Cows	Cwt	49.10	51.00	51.00	48.60	46.00	46.60	NA
Calves	Cwt	120.00	140.00	140.00	122.00	133.00	135.00	249.00
Sheep	Cwt	40.00	46.00	NA	44.60	45.40	NA	89.80
Lambs	Cwt	108.00	115.00	NA	101.00	107.00	NA	223.00
Hogs	Cwt	52.90	44.30	NA	52.40	43.60	45.50	114.00

^{1/} Insufficient sales to establish a price. ^{2/} Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. ^{3/} Fresh market prices only, includes table stock. NA=Not applicable.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

United States

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004.

Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds.

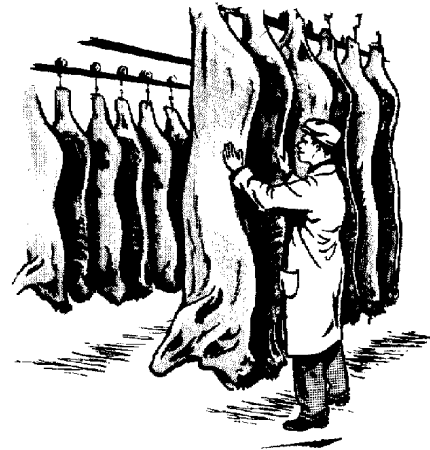
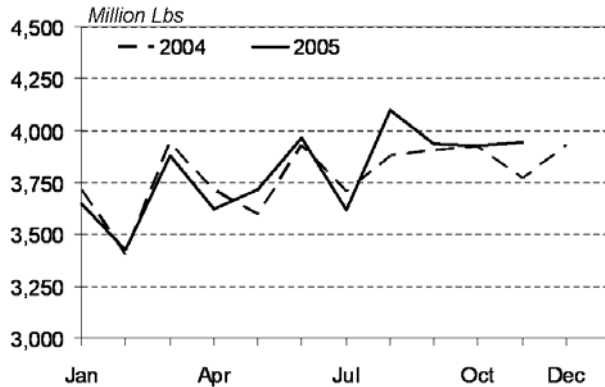
Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent

above November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2005 commercial red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

**Commercial Red Meat Production
United States, 2004-2005**



CATTLE ON FEED

United States

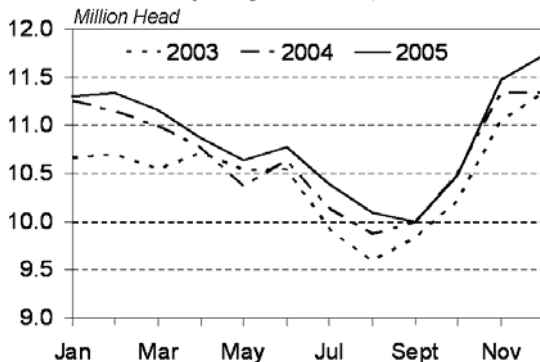
Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on December 1, 2005. The inventory was 3 percent above December 1, 2004 and 3 percent above December 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 2.05 million, 17 percent above 2004 and 6 percent above 2003. Net

placements were 1.95 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 660,000, 600-699 pounds were 650,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 315,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.70 million, 4 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 91,000 during November, 16 percent below 2004 and 6 percent below 2003.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1000+ Capacity Feedlots, 2003-2005**



NASS MONTHLY AG NEWSLETTER

The following estimates, forecasts, and projections are mainly taken from recent publications of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Economic Research Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the USDA.

Corn: United States corn ending stocks for the 2005/06 marketing year are forecast by the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) to total 2.42 billion bushels, up 100 million bushels from last month due to a drop in exports. A market year average price between \$1.60 and \$2.00 per bushel is expected, compared with \$2.06 for the 2004 crop.

Soybeans: WAOB projected United States ending soybean stocks, at 405 million bushels, are up 55 million bushels from last month, while soybean exports were reduced 55 million bushels, to 1.02 billion bushels, as competition from South American soybean exports continues to limit U.S. trade prospects. A market year average price is projected between \$5.00 and \$5.70 per bushel, compared with the 2004 average price of \$5.74.

Wheat: WAOB projected 2005/06 United States ending wheat stocks, at 530 million bushels, were unchanged from November 1. The market year average price is expected to average between \$3.25 and \$3.50 per bushel, compared with \$3.40 for the 2004 crop.

Cattle: Mid-December prices for choice steers (Nebraska direct, 1100-1300 pounds) averaged \$94 per cwt, up \$3 from mid-November. Feeder steer prices (Oklahoma City, medium-large frame, 750-800 pounds) were roughly \$113 per cwt, down \$5 from a month ago.

Hogs: For the first two weeks of December, hog slaughter was running 2.6% above a year ago. Cash prices at mid-December (Iowa-Southern Minnesota direct, 51-52 percent lean) averaged \$44 per cwt, down \$1 from the mid-November price. Fourth quarter prices are expected to average \$45 per cwt.